

**National Youth Ballet
Admissions Policy**

| | |
|-------------------|----------------|
| Author/ Checked : | JM/BP/CFL/AOH |
| Date | 19/06/25 |
| Approved by | JM/BP/CFL |
| Issue Date | September 2025 |
| Next Review Date | September 2028 |

Admissions Policy

1. Introduction and purpose of the policy

- 1.1.** National Youth Ballet strives to bring young people together through creative, joyful and inclusive ballet activities that nurture confidence, skills and positive values. Participants are admitted on the basis of either talent (or potential talent) and/or other specific eligibility criteria (according to each activity) in classical ballet. We are committed to ensuring programmes are inclusive. This policy outlines our approach to admissions for online and in person activity.

2. Residential Performance Company (RPC) In Person Audition Process

- 2.1.** Students are admitted to the annual Residential Performance Company following a national audition process. Audition classes are arranged according to age. A non-refundable fee is charged for the audition. Details of the admissions process with application forms and relevant dates are published on our website at the appropriate time of year. NYB is looking for dancers with good classical ballet technique, who can learn new steps and sequences, are creative, express the joy of dance and have a passion for performing. The Artistic Director RPC and Creative Director may take into account a student's performance and behaviour at any previous NYB activity attended by the student.
- 2.2.** The residential performance company can offer up to c.98 residential places and up to c.5 non-residential places. Students offered a place must commit to the full season, attending all rehearsal and performance dates once they accept the offer of a place. Students and their parents/carers should be aware that National Youth Ballet reserves the right to alter casting at any point if necessary. The Artistic Director RPC and Creative Director's casting decision is final.
- 2.3.** Owing to the very large number of students unfortunately it is not possible to provide individual feedback at auditions.

- 2.4.** The decision of the audition panel is final and there is no opportunity for an appeal to be made. Panel members and NYB staff will not enter into conversation concerning the decision of the admissions / auditions panel.
- 2.5.** In rare cases NYB may hold a second round of RPC auditions. Full details of this will be published on the website for any activity to which this applies.
- 2.6.** NYB operates a waiting list procedure. All dancers will be notified of the outcome of their audition once the national auditions process is finished. Dancers are told by email whether they have been offered a place or not. As soon as we know whether offers have been accepted or not, places are immediately offered to those on the waiting list in order. We do not provide information on where a dancer is on the waiting list.

3. RPC Remote Audition Process

- 3.1.** Students may be permitted to audition remotely. Specific instructions will be issued at the time of the audition. In general, students will be either asked to submit a short video application as an unlisted video on YouTube, or they will be invited to attend a live virtual audition. Application is via Ticket Tailor for which there is a non-refundable fee. Each application is assessed by a panel. Full details of the application requirements for each activity are published on the NYB website.

4. RPC General Admissions Conditions

- 4.1.** The RPC will accept applications from dancers from year 5 upwards who will be between the ages of 10–18 years old at the time of the residential, and who have studied ballet regularly and who have a strong understanding of classical technique.
- 4.2.** In public performance years (2026 & 2028) and at the discretion of the Artistic Director, we will consider accepting 19-year olds into the RPC.

- 4.3. From 2026 as part of our commitment to providing the best possible experience for a young person, we will no longer offer residential places to children under the age of 10 at the time of the residential.
 - 4.4. We will endeavour to offer as many non-residential places as we can accommodate. At present this is up to 5 places.
 - 4.5. It is not possible to give preference to siblings, or the children of former students or members of staff or Trustees, in admitting students to any activity.
 - 4.6. As part of our commitment to providing the best possible experience for a young person, and our commitment to Safeguarding and Health & Safety we will always ask a participant to complete an online questionnaire in advance so that we know how best to support them in the space.
 - 4.7. All participants agree to abide by the NYB Code of Conduct
- 5. Workshops**
- 5.1. NYB offers a range of regional workshops.
 - 5.2. Places in a workshop activity are available for enrollment via Ticket Tailor.
 - 5.3. No audition is required for participation. Instead, each event will be tailored to specific age and ability ranges. This will be clearly indicated on Ticket Tailor and on our website.
 - 5.4. As part of our commitment to providing the best possible experience for a young person, and our commitment to Safeguarding and Health & Safety we will always ask a participant to complete an online questionnaire in advance so that we know how best to support them in the space.
 - 5.5. Any person found to be under the advised age for participation or anyone who has not reached the appropriate grade for the activity may be asked to leave the class and no refund will be given.
 - 5.6. All participants agree to abide by the NYB Code of Conduct
- 6. NYB All In! activity**

- 6.1. NYB offers a range of NYB All In! activities including ballet classes, creative workshops, residencies and online activities. These projects may be repeated and / or other online activity may be created.
- 6.2. Places for NYB All In! ballet classes, creative workshops and online activities are available for enrollment via Ticket Tailor.
- 6.3. Participants are admitted to the NYB All In! Performance Company following an audition process.
- 6.4. Each event will be tailored to specific age and experience levels. This will be clearly indicated on Ticket Tailor and on our website.
- 6.5. As part of our commitment to providing the best possible experience for a young person, and our commitment to Safeguarding and Health & Safety we will always ask a participant to complete an online questionnaire in advance so that we know how best to support them in the space. This will include specific questions on access support.
- 6.6. NYB will use best endeavours to provide all reasonable adjustments and access support within our budget. In some instances where we cannot support specific care needs, if additional care is necessary, as outlined in the questionnaire above, for a participant to fully engage with the activity, it may be necessary for a carer(s) to accompany the dancer to the activity.
- 6.7. As part of our commitment to safeguarding, any carers attending NYB activity will be required to provide their personal details. This information will be stored securely and used for the purposes of safeguarding compliance. For further information on how we process data please refer to our data protection policy.
- 6.8. All participants agree to abide by the NYB Code of Conduct.

7. Online activity

- 7.1. NYB offers a range of online activities. These have previously included *Moving Minds*, masterclasses and *Bouncing Back*. These projects may be repeated and / or other online activity may be created.
- 7.2. All online activity is available for enrollment via Ticket Tailor.

- 7.3. No audition is required for participation. Instead, each event will be tailored to specific age and ability ranges. This will be clearly indicated on Ticket Tailor and on our website.
- 7.4. As part of our commitment to providing the best possible experience for a young person, and our commitment to Safeguarding and Health & Safety we will always ask a participant to complete an online questionnaire in advance so that we know how best to support them in the space.
- 7.5. All online activity will be fully risk assessed and participants will be provided with guidance on how to work in a safe space. It is the responsibility of a responsible adult to ensure that these guidelines are adhered to at all times to prevent injury.
- 7.6. Any person found to be under the advised age for participation or anyone who has not reached the appropriate grade for the activity may be asked to leave the class and no refund will be given.
- 7.7. All participants agree to abide by the NYB Code of Conduct

8. Equality

- 8.1. National Youth Ballet is committed to a fair, transparent and inclusive admissions process. We will not discriminate against members or their families, or prevent participation in any activities, on the basis of age, disability, sexual orientation, gender, gender reassignment, marital or civil partner status, pregnancy or maternity, race, ethnicity, nationality, religion or belief. Every reasonable adjustment will be made to accommodate specific dietary, religious or cultural needs.
- 8.2. National Youth Ballet is allowed lawfully to operate a "permitted form of selection". This exception to the usual anti-discrimination rules is found in Schedule 11, Part 3, Paragraph 8 of the Equality Act 2010:

Part 3: Disability discrimination: Permitted form of selection:

8 (1) A person does not contravene section 85(1), so far as relating to disability, only by applying a permitted form of selection.

(2) In relation to England and Wales, a permitted form of selection is:

(c) in the case of an independent educational institution, arrangements which provide for some or all of its pupils to be selected by reference to general or special ability or aptitude, with a view to admitting only pupils of high ability or aptitude.

9. Bursaries

- 9.1.** As part of our commitment to increasing access, National Youth Ballet is delighted to offer a number of financial bursaries each year. These bursaries are part of our commitment to equitable and inclusive ballet, and help to ensure that students who are offered a place with National Youth Ballet are not denied the opportunity to participate due to lack of financial means. Details of bursary funds and how to apply can be found on our website. This information is updated every year.
- 9.2.** In 2025 National Youth Ballet introduced travel bursaries to assist with costs for travel for those travelling long distances. These bursaries are made available to participants for use on public transport as part of our commitment to environmental sustainability and in line with our climate action plan. NYB may consider applications for travel by private vehicle in specific circumstances.
- 9.3.** A panel of National Youth Ballet staff will assess any application anonymously for a bursary against the stipulated criteria for eligibility. This may include understanding if a family is in receipt of benefits or income support, or is receiving a bursary for dance study from any ballet school.
- 9.4.** In rare cases, students may be asked to provide written proof of the basis upon which the application is being made. National Youth Ballet may require provision of tax returns submitted by the family which supports the student, supplemented by a statement of means, before deciding on any application.
- 9.5.** The panel will refer to the Trustees in any case of doubt before awarding a bursary, and in all cases where they believe that it may be necessary to request submission of tax returns and a statement of means.
- 9.6.** The CEO's decision is final.

10. Responsibility and Review

10.1. The CEO will ensure that students are admitted only in accordance with this policy, and that all statutory requirements are met. All members of staff are expected to follow this policy. The number of students and the results of the auditions processes will be reported to the Board of Trustees and the information will also be incorporated into National Youth Ballet’s annual report.

| NYB Values | |
|--------------------|---|
| DIVERSE | We make ballet accessible to young people from all backgrounds and levels of experience. |
| AMBITIOUS | We present bold new works and push the boundaries of performance and production. |
| NURTURING | We prioritise the wellbeing and creativity of every dancer, building kind communities where they can be their authentic selves. |
| CHALLENGING | We reframe how ballet is created, taught, and experienced, inspiring a more accessible art form. |
| ETHICAL | We seize every opportunity to champion fairness, equity and the environment to make a positive impact. |